



## DIRECTOR OF SAFETY SERVICES MESSAGE

### ***Safety & Risk Management Council Update*** ***Joe Whiteman***

It's a new year, which brings a new council director to the Safety and Risk Management Council (SRMC). I would like to thank outgoing council director, Aron Csont, Barton Malow. Aron served an extra year on his original two-year term due to the challenges brought forth by COVID-19. He was deeply involved with many of our current initiatives, including Hard Hats to Helmets (H2H), the Safety Training, Assessment and Recognition Program (S.T.A.R.), as well as programs centered on fatigue and mental health awareness. Aron served his post diligently and inspired a high level of involvement and quality from the council board.

Heather Baines, incoming SRMC council director, with North Coast Concrete, is no stranger to ASCC and the SRMC. She has been the safety director for North Coast Concrete since 2011 and a member of the SRMC since 2013. She brings with her extensive concrete and reinforcement safety knowledge and is involved with many SRMC initiatives. As the SRMC moves forward, I look forward to Heather helping usher in new resources to advance members' safety performance.

This council is dedicated to making ASCC members the safest concrete contractors in the industry. By staying on top of recent trends and innovations, the SRMC provides members with industry leading safety resources and initiatives to further the mission of the ASCC. This council is extremely active, results driven and dedicated to advancing members safety programs and performance.



## THE LATEST

### ***ANSI Z359.14-2021*** ***Shawn Werner, Sundt Construction, Inc.***

STCKY (S#! That Can Kill You) S#! That's Built at Heights

In June 2022, the American Society of Safety Professionals updated the ANSI Z359.14 standard for Safety Requirements for Self-Retracting Devices for Personal Fall Arrest and Rescue Systems. The new standard is ANSI Z359.14-2021 which went into effect February 1.

The new standard aims to make it easier to correctly identify the right SRL (Self Retracting Lanyard)/SRD (Self Retracting Device) for the task, as well as enacting more stringent testing standards. Before the newly implemented standard, SRL/SRDs were labeled as Class A, Class B,

Class B(LE), and Class B(R). Under the new standard these will simply be classified Class 1 or Class 2.

Class 1 (previously Class A): The Class 1 SRL/SRD is to be anchored from the height of the D-ring on the back of the harness or higher. Freefall distance should not exceed more than 24", a maximum deceleration distance of 42", and with an average arresting force (AAF) of less than 1350lbs.

Class 2 (previously Class B): This is the most impactful change to fall arrest safety. In the past, Class B had several categories. Class B SRL/SRDs were foot level tie off rated; however, not all were rated for leading edge and could fail if used in those situations. With the new ANSI update, ALL Class 2 SRL/SRDs may be used in all situations where Class 1 is acceptable, and in addition are rated for foot level tie off (freefall should not exceed 6'). Contact with a structural/leading edge is possible, the maximum deceleration distance is 42", and an AAF is less than 1,350 lbs.

(NOTE: Foot level tie off should be eliminated when possible. The use of Class 2 devices at foot level tie off WILL NOT PREVENT A SERIOUS INJURY in the event of a fall. The purpose of this device is to prevent fatalities).

How will this new standard affect your company, and what are you required to do with existing SRL/SRDs? Any SRL/SRD manufactured after February 1 must meet the new testing and labeling standards. (Distributors can continue to sell SRL/SRDs manufactured before that date until they run through their inventory). All existing SRL/SRDs will not be affected, and can stay in service as long as the equipment continues to meet the inspection requirements at the recommended intervals as defined by the manufacturer, and as inspected by a Competent Person.

What should you do?

- Continue to inspect current equipment to ensure it is safe and serviceable.
- Ensure your current equipment is being used in the proper application  
(Not all existing Class B SRL/SRDs are rated for leading edge and can't be used as Class 2).
- Continue to train employees on proper selection of fall protection systems.
- Be vigilant in the planning and implementation of fall protection systems.

These changes to the standard are a step forward in eliminating fatalities from elevated level falls (the number one cause of fatalities in construction). They lessen the confusion for employers and employees, making the proper choice easier when choosing an SRL/SRD as part of a Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS). Using the wrong SRL/SRD in the wrong application can be deadly.

Reference: American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) Z359 Committee Bulletin, July 2022  
Reference: Z359-14-2021 ANSI Standard



## WHAT'S WORKING

### ***So Many Helmets: Which One to Choose*** ***Joe Whiteman, director of safety services***

As you know, ASCC prides itself on being able to meet the needs of its members. We strive to be ahead of the curve and an industry leader when it comes to member resources and initiatives. When I speak with new members I always mention that we are unlike any other trade association. I often use the term "Concierge Trade Association," as each member has their interests and challenges, and we go out of our way to ensure each receives the care and service they deserve.

The same can be said about our approach to our Hard Hats 2 Helmets (H2H) initiative. ASCC recognized early on the value and need to provide a higher level of protection against traumatic brain injuries, which are prevalent in our industry. Like many of our initiatives and resources, we enlist passionate members not only from the Safety and Risk Management Council, but others who see the value in an initiative and are willing bring their expertise to the table.

So how do our "concierge service" and H2H go together? We understand it can be an overwhelming task for a member to take the first step. Where do you start? Who do you go to? What helmet best suits the needs of your workers? Vented? Non-vented? What class helmet? A new resource has developed organically through this campaign. Joey Kryz, Professional Contractor Supply (PCS), an ASCC associate member, has quickly become a subject matter

expert on helmets in the construction industry. Due to the buying power of his organization, and the stocking and warehousing capabilities, PCS is one of the country's largest distributors of helmets, and well versed in all things related.

Krys is passionate about the H2H initiative and has taken an active role in facilitating the needs of our members. Members who let him know your interest in making the switch can visit with him about which helmets best suit your needs based on budget, availability, protection level, attachments, and other criteria. He will send (in many cases, overnight) a sample helmet from each manufacturer you've identified.

You can schedule a follow up call to walk you through your samples and ask questions. This is done to ensure you have all the information needed to make the best decision for your company. If your organization is ready to make the transition from hard hats to helmets and could benefit from this service contact me at [jwhiteman@ascconline.org](mailto:jwhiteman@ascconline.org). I'll be happy to provide the introduction and help you start your H2H journey.



## **SAFETY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT**

### ***New H2H Website Joe Whiteman, director of safety services***

It's my pleasure to announce that a new H2H website has been launched. Over the past few years many companies have made the transition to helmets. The new website is aimed at bringing further awareness to this life-saving option. The site provides a one-stop-shop for information related to features, benefits, current and emerging technologies. ASCC member STRUCTURAL provided the financial support to build the site.

[H2H Home - Hard Hats to Helmets](#)



## **HARD HATS TO HELMETS**

### ***The STEP Approach to Helmets Michael Samuhel, Project Manager, Bass Commercial Concrete***

At Bass, we have always provided basic PPE for new and existing employees. Throughout the years we recognized there seems to be one item of PPE that most new hires bring with them, their personal hard hat. The hard hat has evolved as a way for construction workers to express themselves; whether by choosing a style and material that favors them and stands out amongst other workers, or displaying decals/stickers they have collected over the years. This being the case, it is no surprise many companies have concerns with making the switch to helmets. Will they lose employees? Will employees keep up with the helmets? Will they wear them when not specifically required on a project? After making the move to helmets, these concerns seem much more insignificant.

Helmets have been gaining traction in construction for the last few years and are often referred to as the next safety standard. It doesn't take much research to understand the reasoning. What it comes down to is helmets provide better protection in more accident scenarios when compared to the traditional hard hat. Helmets are rated for impact from many different directions and are equipped with a chin strap for fall protection and to ensure you remain protected when in a crouched or bent over position.

We decided to make the switch when we were selected for a project on which helmets were required. This way there were no questions as to why one project team made the switch while others didn't. This also went along with our "STEP" safety culture – "Safety Takes Each Person". We made our transition to helmets in October 2022, and have not encountered the previously

mentioned issues. Our helmets are gray with our logo on the front. When we issued helmets, we made sure they were accompanied with a letter in English and Spanish, explaining the transition, and the benefits that came with it. We also hold project safety meetings when passing out helmets and include a breakfast or lunch to bring the team together. We believe that making this transition at a company level resulted in greater commitment to the new policy from all team members.

#### The Bass Commitment

“It is our desire to continue to improve our emphasis on SAFETY as well as our overall SAFETY CULTURE. We believe providing our team members with the best equipment to protect each other’s wellbeing is in line with our company values which consist of:

**Integrity** – Trust, honesty, good communication, and respect are the basic principles for successful relationships. Bass Concrete strives to build and maintain those relationships internally as well as with our clients.

**Safety** – Bass Concrete focuses on maintaining safe job sites and equipment, as well as providing our employees with the proper training and support needed to be successful.

**Quality** – Bass Concrete chooses the best products and equipment, which are in turn utilized by trained, caring, and professional craftsmen dedicated to delivering the best finished product possible.

**Pride** – Bass Concrete takes pride in our roots and heritage as a small turnkey concrete contractor that has succeeded by becoming one of the most respected concrete contractors in our region.

**Performance** – When our clients evaluate Bass Concrete upon the completion of our project, we want our clients to be completely satisfied with our Performance. ‘Performance embodies the success we can achieve in each of our key values from the inception to the completion of the project.’ - Robert Brosius, LEED AP, CPE, Bass Commercial Concrete LLC, Little Rock, AR.”

### *Helmet Heads*

If your company is wearing helmets and you're not on this list, please email [Bev](mailto:Bev).

Adjustable Concrete Construction  
Albanelli Cement Contractors  
Alberici  
Barton Malow  
Bass Commercial Concrete  
Belfast Valley Contractors  
Birmingham Decorative Concrete  
California Engineering Contractors  
Ceco Concrete Construction  
Century Concrete  
Charles Pankow Builders  
Coloscapes  
Concreate  
Concrete Strategies  
DPR Construction  
Fessler/Bowman  
GH Phipps Construction Cos.  
Hensel Phelps  
Hyde Concrete  
Industrial Caulk and Seal  
Joseph J. Albanese  
Kent Companies  
Kolde Concrete Construction  
Largo Concrete

Lloyd Concrete Services  
Martin Concrete Construction  
McGillicuddy Concrete  
Mike Payne & Associates  
MK Concrete Construction  
Neuber Concrete  
North Coast Concrete  
Poppoff, Inc.  
PROCON, Inc.  
Ruttura & Sons Const. Co.  
Somero Enterprises  
STRUCTURAL  
Sundt Construction, Inc.  
Surfacing Solutions  
Swinerton Builders  
The Art of Concrete  
Trademark Concrete Systems  
Turner Brothers  
Webcor Concrete  
Whitaker-Ellis  
Wm. Winkler Co.

## ***Safety Moment*** ***Frank Trujillo, Miller and Long Construction***

We recently had an incident where the Anti-Two Block device fell from a mobile crane that was on-site for hoisting operations. The device was assumed to be properly connected as it was visually observed in place. Unfortunately, this was not the case and it subsequently fell from its mounting point on the crane, ricocheted and struck a worker in the head. Fortunately, the worker was wearing a helmet and after evaluation, sustained no serious injuries and continued working. When a crane is operating on site, “seeing” the Anti-Two Block device in place does not mean it is properly attached and secured. Take the extra step to verify that it is adequately attached, and tether the piece of equipment to the crane.

## ***Safety Awards***

Participating in a safety awards program is an excellent way to demonstrate your commitment to safety to your insurance carrier, customers, and employees. More and more owners and specifiers are looking carefully at their contractors, and the general perception is that a firm that is actively taking steps to control safety in their operations is also better managed in other areas. Many of your clients may already be requesting your Safety Experience Modification Rates and more, as a part of the bidding process. [More Information](#)

## ***Safety Audit***

Much like utilizing a third-party consultant, ASCC developed this member benefit to offer contractors a comprehensive evaluation of their safety program, safety leadership and field operations. Joe Whiteman, director of safety service, will review the completeness and effectiveness of your safety and health program, and offer suggestions and assistance to correct or improve deficiencies.

Services Offered:

Written Program/ Policy Review

Site Safety Evaluation and Risk Assessment to Address Physical Safety Hazards and Conditions  
Silica Dust Generating Activities and Program Assessment

[More Information](#)

## ***Safety Training Assessment and Recognition Program (S.T.A.R.)***

The S.T.A.R. Program is a benchmarking and continuous improvement tool for member companies, regardless of size and where they are on their safety journey. S.T.A.R. identifies areas of improvement and provides a roadmap to ensure targets are met and improved safety performance is realized. Contractors perform a self-appraisal of their safety program and culture, and measure processes and policies based on 15 Key Performing Indicators (KPIs). S.T.A.R. provides the information companies need to identify and implement new initiatives, policies, and procedures to reduce jobsite incidents and foster a stronger commitment to safety culture on all levels. [More Information](#)



## EVENTS

### ASCC Safety Roundtables

All roundtables are at 2 pm Central.

March 29

Women in Construction and Safety: Best Practices to Ensure Opportunities And Needs are Met

April 26

Safety Innovations for The Construction Industry: What New Tech is Working For You?

[Register](#)

### Safety Summit

November 8-9, 2023

St. Louis, MO



## BOOKSTORE

**WARNING!**  
EXPOSURE TO WET CONCRETE CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURIES!  
Working with concrete without proper use of the appropriate personal protective equipment can damage the skin. "Cement burns" range from minor redness or irritation to serious chemical burns, such as those:



**SUGGESTED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR PLACING AND FINISHING CONCRETE**

**Placement Crew Member**  
1. Long sleeves, long pants, and a wide-brimmed hat or hard hat to protect against sunburn and heat stress. 2. Long sleeves, long pants, and a wide-brimmed hat or hard hat to protect against sunburn and heat stress.

**Finisher**  
1. Long sleeves, long pants, and a wide-brimmed hat or hard hat to protect against sunburn and heat stress. 2. Long sleeves, long pants, and a wide-brimmed hat or hard hat to protect against sunburn and heat stress.

**STEPS TO AVOID CEMENT BURNS**

- Always Wear Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.
- Immediately Remove Clothes that Become Saturated with Wet Concrete.
- Wash Skin and Clothes with Fresh, Clean Water and pH Neutral Soap.
- If Concrete Gets Into Eyes, Immediately Flush with Plenty of Cool, Clean Water and Seek Medical Attention



Developed by NRMCA for  
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### Cement Burn Poster

The Cement Burn Poster is a cooperative effort between ASCC Safety & Risk Management Council and the NRMCA Safety Task Force. It reminds concrete workers of problems that arise when working with fresh concrete. Graphic pictures of injuries caused by wet concrete with information on how to avoid burns.

[Purchase in our bookstore.](#)

## Safety Products & Services





AMERICAS




KASK



**ASCC Safety & Insurance Hotline**

 [asconline.org](http://asconline.org)

 [srmchotline@asconline.org](mailto:srmchotline@asconline.org)

 833-281-9602



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